der Dr. Bullen's care, she continued perseveringly to simulate various diseases with great perseverance and remarkable fidelity of execution; all evidently with the design to multiply proofs of the injuries received from the Callaghans.

At the ensuing August Assizes, she was tried for perjury, convicted and sentenced to transportation. "Mr. Murphy, governor of the city jail, informed me afterwards, that from the moment of conviction, the demeanour of this woman became completely changed, and that the report of her conduct on the passage to New South Wales was extremely favourable."

Remarkable as is this case for the malignant perseverance of the accuser, and improbable as the occurrence of a similar attempt may seem, yet it should not be forgotten that the lives of the Callaghans might have been forfeited, *had not an immediate examination* been made by Dr. Howe. Not only in Ireland, but I think, in some parts of this country, accusations of rape are increasing. They are very readily preferred, and they depend for proof on the testimony of the accuser alone. Should it not be required that an early examination be made in these cases by a medical practitioner, and in default of a speedy application for that purpose, that the charge be proportionably discredited? T. R. B.

68. *Treatment of Poisoning with Opium, &c.*—In ordinary cases the indications are, first, to endeavour to remove the poison from the stomach. This is attempted by the use of emetics or of the stomach pump. The second is to keep the patient constantly roused. In numerous instances this has been accomplished by dashing cold water over the head and body. Dr. Boisragon advises a modification of this, and adduces several cases of his success. His directions are as follows: after using the preliminary means, place the feet in warm water, and pass a sponge dipped in the same and as hot as the hand can bear it, over the shoulders, chest and back. Let this be immediately followed by a dash of cold water over the face, or by passing a sponge dipped in it over the head and chest. These continued novel or *alternate* impressions on the nervous system may prove, in his opinion, powerful assistants in the recovery of poisoned persons.—*London Medical Gazette*, March 6, 1840. T. R. B.

69. *Action of Albumen on Corrosive Sublimate.*—The change induced by albumen on corrosive sublimate when taken internally, is one of the most interesting problems in chemistry. It is universally considered as an antidote if taken sufficiently early, but how it acts seems at present to be a matter in doubt. I believe Dr. Bostock was one of the first who noticed the action of these bodies on each other, and he states explicitly, that even when heat was applied, the precipitate is a compound of albumen and corrosive sublimate. (*Nicholson's Journal*, vol. xiv, p. 142.) Dr. John Davy, to whom I am indebted for this reference, advocates a similar opinion in his Physiological and Anatomical Researches. According to his experiments, no muriatic acid was disengaged or produced, nor could he induce a union of albumen with either the protoxide or peroxide of mercury. It has, however, been generally credited on the authority of Orfila, that a decomposition takes place, and that the resulting compound consists of albumen, muriatic acid and calomel. He grants, however, in the third edition of his Leçons, (vol. i, p. 301,) that the resulting calomel is never applied in the form of powder to the membranes of the alimentary canal, nor has it the physical properties of calomel, since it is intimately combined with the substance which has been the cause of its formation, and thus constitutes a ternary chemical compound. I have also mentioned, in another place, the cases of Olivier and Barruel, who, in persons poisoned with corrosive sublimate and to whom milk and albumen had been administered as antidotes, could detect no calomel; but the tests indicated the presence of corrosive sublimate, a portion of which was probably still undecomposed.

Dr. Turner (Chemistry, 5th edit., p. 937,) also states, that Rose, in a late analysis, proved the resulting precipitate to consist of oxide of mercury and albumen.

The latest experimenter is Lassaigne. He asserts, from a series of observations, that in the action of albumen on metallic salts, *this principle unites directly with these compounds without producing any decomposition.* It forms compounds with them, which are insoluble in water, when these bodies are in certain proportions, but susceptible of solution when the albumen or the metallic salt is in excess. And these compounds he denominates *albuminates.* (*American Journal of Pharmacy*, vol. xii, p. 170, from the *Journal de Chimie Médicale.*)

We have reason to fear, from these results, that the value of albumen as a *chemical* antidote, will be somewhat impaired. Still its use should not by any means be omitted, but it should be administered as early as possible and in large quantities. T. R. B.

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70. *On the Conversion of Calomel into Corrosive Sublimate.* By M. Miahle.—A physician had prescribed to a child a few powders, containing in each five grains of the muriate of ammonia, five grains of sugar, and half a grain of calomel. After taking a few of these the child died, with all the symptoms of poisoning by corrosive sublimate; and the apothecary was charged with the death of the child, on the supposition that he had substituted corrosive sublimate for the calomel. Experiments were instituted to ascertain whether the calomel could have been decomposed by the ammoniacal salt; and it was satisfactorily proved by M. Peten-Koffer, that a porton at least was converted into corrosive sublimate. A celebrated French professor of chemistry, however, denied that such an action took place; and M. Miahle repeated with great care the experiments, and arrived at the following important conclusions.

1. The proto-chloride of mercury (calomel,) when mixed with muriate of ammonia, or the chlorides of sodium or potassium, and distilled water, is partly converted into the deuto-chloride of mercury (corrosive sublimate,) and partly into metallic mercury. This decomposition takes place at the temperature of the human body, and even at ordinary temperatures, in the course of a few instants. In order to be convinced of the truth of this, it is only necessary to have in the mouth for a few minutes a small quantity of calomel; a pretty intense mercurial taste is soon developed, due to the mutual reaction of the mercurial chloride, and the alkaline chlorides contained in the saliva.

2. It is to the conversion of calomel into corrosive sublimate and metallic mercury, when acted upon by the hydrochloric acid or hydrochlorates, or ammoniacal salts which exist in the digestive tube, that we must attribute the pathological phenomena of mercurial salivation, when calomel has been administered internally. What proves that such is really the case, is the fact, that when calomel does not purge, but is tolerated by the digestive organs, it excites an abnormal secretion of saliva and this on account of the larger quantity of sublimate which is formed.

3. As the quantity of sublimate formed within the body depends on the quantity of alkaline chlorides met with in the intestinal canal, those who habitually use large quantities of salt, all other things being equal, ought to be more easily salivated than others.

4. The antisyphilitic properties of calomel are probably due entirely to the corrosive sublimate and metallic mercury into which it is converted. Without doubt its anthelmintic virtues are owing to the same cause; the two substances into which it is converted acting as a poison on the intestinal worms.

5. What has been said of calomel is equally applicable to the proto-ioduret of mercury; it being, in the same circumstances, converted into the deuto-ioduret.—*Edinburg Med. and Surg. Journ.* July, 1840, from *Journal de Pharmacie*, February, 1840. T. R. B.

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71. *Case of Poisoning by Colchicum Seeds.* By Dr. Neubrandt.—A man, 52 years of age, took by mistake, on the evening of the 18th February, a decoction of the seeds of colchicum, made with a table spoonful of the seeds to a pound and a-half of water. During the night he vomited, and passed more than fifteen stools. He was seen by Dr. Neubrandt next morning, but was not then complaining much. The vomiting and purging were less frequent, and though he